

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
FEBRUARY 2004				Buy products you can use for multiple cleaning purposes		

8	9	10	11	LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	13	VALENTINE'S DAY
Avoid products that are toxic to both humans and aquatic life				ECO/BLDG ENERGY MONITOR 1300-1400 HAZ MAT 1400-1445 Bldg 218		

15	PRESIDENTS DAY	17	18	19	20	21
		EQWG 1000-1130 EPO MEETING 1300-1400 Green Bldg.	MANEUVER DAMAGE CONTROL CLASS 1300-1400 Green Bldg			

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	23	24	25	26	27	28
Buy products with packaging that is recycled and/or recyclable						

29



CONNECTING ISSUES TO THE EVERYDAY LIVES OF ORDINARY PEOPLE IS THE ONLY SUSTAINABLE STRATEGY

- UNATTRIBUTABLE

USING 'GREEN' CLEANING PRODUCTS BETTER FOR YOUR HEALTH, THE ENVIRONMENT

The next time you spray your favorite household cleaner to get rid of a stubborn counter stain or scrub your bathroom sink, you might want to check to see if the product you are using is potentially more harmful than the dirt you are cleaning.

Commercial cleaning products often contain powerful chemicals, which is why many have warning labels regarding their flammability or about the dangers of inhaling the fumes. Government affirmative purchasing includes some guidance on what types of criteria to look for in safer, more environmentally friendly cleaners.

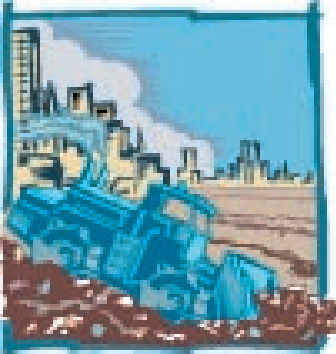
Using Green cleaners doesn't just mean using non-toxic products, it also means looking at its "life cycle", which includes production, use and disposal. Although no one set of standards for green cleaning products exists, according to Green Seal, an independent, non-profit organization that promotes environmentally friendly products, here are a few of the criteria to look for when you are buying office or home cleaners:

- Avoid products that are toxic to both humans and aquatic life
- Look for the biodegradability of the product – how well it breaks down in the environment
- Corrosivity/pH levels (pH levels measure how acidic or basic a substance is - look for neutral pH levels)
- Volatile organic compound levels -- choose products with 10 percent or less the weight of the product when diluted
- Avoid products with harmful compounds and potential carcinogens, such as EDTA (ethylene diamine tetraacetic acid or ethylene dinitrilotetraacetic acid) and NTA (nitrilotriacetic acid)
- Avoid products containing harsh chemicals such as chlorine bleach or sodium hypochlorite
- Avoid petroleum-based products – instead use those derived from vegetable oil
- Look for whether the product is available in a concentrated form and whether it can be diluted in room temperature water
- Buy products you can use for multiple cleaning purposes
- Buy products with packaging that is recycled and/or recyclable

Harmful household products can significantly increase indoor air pollutants. Studies conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency's Total Exposure Assessment Methodology found levels of about a dozen common organic pollutants to be two-to-five times higher inside homes than outside, regardless of whether they were rural homes or located in industrial areas.

Cleaner water is another important benefit to using less toxic cleaners. Water polluted with toxic cleaning compounds eventually enters water systems, which in turn can contaminate wildlife, vegetation, not to mention groundwater sources for well water users.

For more information about green cleaning products, you can log on to the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive website at www.ofee.gov/whats/ctcfall03.pdf or the Green Seal Product Recommendations website at www.greenseal.org/recommendations.htm.



For information on how to properly dispose of the household products you own at the Permanent Household Chemical Waste Collection Facility, log on to the El Paso County Solid Waste Management Division website at adm.elpasoco.com/solidwst/new_building.asp.